

VA Medical Center, Aspinwall Division,
Water Softener Building (Building No. 42)
5103 Delafield Avenue
Aspinwall Vicinity
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5438-L

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VA MEDICAL CENTER, HABS No. PA-5438-L
ASPINWALL DIVISION, WATER SOFTENER BUILDING
(Building No. 42)

- Location: The Water Softener Building is located in the southeast quadrant of the hospital complex, on the north side of an axial road leading southeast from the main entry drive, approximately 700 feet southeast of the end of the drive. The Medical Center is located at 5103 Delafield Avenue, Aspinwall vicinity, O'Hara Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.
- Significance: Constructed in 1944, the Water Softener Building is associated with the Aspinwall Hospital complex, which was developed by the Veterans' Bureau (later the Veterans Administration) as part of a nationwide expansion of the Bureau's hospital facilities conducted between 1920 and 1947. The building is specifically associated with the continued upgrading and expansion of the hospital's facilities.
- Description: The Water Softener Building is a single story reinforced concrete building with brick wall panels measuring approximately 32 feet by 42 feet. The building has a flat roof surrounded by a low brick parapet wall with a concrete coping. Decorative boots are located at the heads of the downspouts. The principal entry, centrally located in the northeast facade, consists of a pair of wood doors, each with three lights, and a five-light transom sash. The entry is located within a removable brick panel designed to facilitate the installation and removal of equipment. Two rectangular window openings, with concrete sills and brick soldier course lintels, flank the entry. Window sash are six-over-six double-hung wood units. Two identical windows are located in both the southeast and northwest facades. Fenestration in the southwest facade consists of three hatch openings, each with concrete sills and brick soldier course lintels, used for loading salt into the salt storage room. Each of these openings is fitted with a wood door. The building's interior consists of a salt storage room and a water treatment room. The floor of the water treatment room is concrete, with a backwash trough cut into the floor slab.
- History: The Water Softener Building was constructed in 1944 as a water treatment plant for the hospital facility. The building is presently vacant and unused.
- Sources: Veterans Administration Medical Center. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (1980).

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Twenty-fifth Anniversary: Veterans Administration Hospital,
Aspinwall, Pennsylvania (1950).

National Hospital Day at U.S. Veterans Administration Facility,
Aspinwall, Pennsylvania (1945).

Original architectural drawings on file at Engineering
Services, VA Medical Center, Oakland Division, Pittsburgh,
Pennsylvania.

Historian:

Glenn Ceponis/Patrick O'Bannon
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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